

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A shoe comprising:
 - (a) a top layer;
 - (b) a bottom layer;
 - (c) a shape-retaining member sandwiched between the top layer and
the bottom layer; and
 - 10 (d) a heel mounted to the shape-retaining member through the bottom
layer;
 - (e) an upper having plural elongated insert elements, each having a
stopper on its bottom end, each of the plural elongated insert
elements extending through a hole in the top layer and a hole in
15 the bottom layer such that the stopper engages the hole in the
bottom layer.
- 20 2. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the top layer includes a filled-
in cutout that is disposed directly above the heel.
- 25 3. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein both the top layer and the
bottom layer are comprised of thermoplastic rubber (TPR).
4. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the shape-retaining member
25 is comprised of a metal.
5. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the shape-retaining member
comprises a tuck board that at least approximately matches a shape of the top
layer and the bottom layer and a smaller shank that is stronger and stiffer than
30 the tuck board.
6. A shoe according to claim 5, wherein the shank is disposed along a
portion of the shoe that is elevated by the heel.

7. A shoe according to claim 5, wherein the shank is attached to the tuck board using cement and rivets.

8. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein each of the top layer and the
5 bottom layer have been formed by stamping a sheet of material.

9. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the shape-retaining member has been stamped out of metal.

10. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the heel is mounted to the shape-retaining member by driving fastener through the shape-retaining member and into a top portion of the heel.

11. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the plural
15 elongated insert elements also extends through a hole in the shape-retaining member.

12. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the top layer, bottom layer and shape-retaining member are attached using segment.

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13. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the heel is at least two inches in length.

14. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the heel is at least three
25 inches in length.

15. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the top layer is softer than the bottom layer.

16. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein both the top layer and the
30 bottom layer are comprised of a sheet material.